

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Cancelled)
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]] 8, wherein said means for attenuating a portion of the produced light comprises at least one substantially L-shaped arm.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]] 8, wherein said means for attenuating a portion of the produced light comprises a plurality of arms evenly spaced from one another.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]] 8, further comprising means for focusing light emitted by said means for producing light onto said target area.
- 1 5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said means for attenuating a portion of the produced light is mounted in a registration position on said means for focusing light.
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]] 8, wherein said desired illumination pattern excludes a lower portion of said target area.
- 1 7. (Cancelled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, A system for illuminating a target area with  
2 a desired illumination pattern, comprising:  
3       means for producing light to illuminate said target area;  
4       means for attenuating a portion of the produced light;  
5       means for positioning said means for attenuating light in a registration position with  
6 respect to said means for producing light so that the attenuated light is blocked from a portion of  
7 said target area and the unblocked light illuminates said target area with said desired illumination  
8 pattern; and  
9       another light source for illuminating another portion of said target area,  
10      wherein there is substantially no overlap in light emitted from each of said light sources.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A system for illuminating a target area with a desired illumination  
2 pattern, comprising:  
3       a light source for producing having plural light emitters each to produce light to  
4 illuminate said target area;  
5       a light attenuator having plural blocking elements for blocking a portion of the produced  
6 light from each light emitter;  
7       a guide for positioning said light attenuator in a registration position with respect to said  
8 light source so that a portion of the produced light from each light emitter is blocked from said  
9 target area and the unblocked light from each light emitter illuminates said target area [[with]] to  
10 achieve said desired illumination pattern.

1 10. (Cancelled)

- 1 11. (Original) A system for illuminating a target area on a data cartridge with a desired
- 2 illumination pattern, comprising:
  - 3 a cartridge-engaging assembly positionable adjacent said data cartridge;
  - 4 a light source mounted to said cartridge-engaging assembly; and
  - 5 a light attenuator mounted to said cartridge-engaging assembly for blocking a portion of
  - 6 light emitted by said light source so that the unblocked light illuminates said target area with said
  - 7 desired illumination pattern.
- 1 12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said light attenuator has at least one light-
- 2 attenuating arm.
- 1 13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said at least one light-attenuating arm is
- 2 substantially L-shaped.
- 1 14. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising registration means for positioning
- 2 said light attenuator in a registration position with respect to said light source.
- 1 15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
  - 2 a lens to focus said light emitted by said light source onto said target area; and
  - 3 a detector to detect light reflected from the target area.
- 1 16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said light attenuator is mounted in a
- 2 registration position to said lens.
- 1 17. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said light source is at least one light-emitting
- 2 diode.

1 18. (Original) A method for illuminating a target area on a data cartridge with a desired  
2 illumination pattern, comprising:

3 positioning a cartridge-engaging assembly adjacent to said data cartridge;  
4 emitting light from at least one light source on said cartridge-engaging assembly; and  
5 attenuating a portion of said emitted light so that the unblocked light illuminates said  
6 target area with said desired illumination pattern.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein emitting light is from both a first light  
2 source and a second light source on said cartridge-engaging assembly, and only a portion of said  
3 emitted light from said first light source is attenuated.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising A method for  
2 illuminating a target area on a data cartridge with a desired illumination pattern, comprising:

3 positioning a cartridge-engaging assembly adjacent to said data cartridge;  
4 emitting light from at least one light source on said cartridge-engaging assembly;  
5 attenuating a portion of said emitted light so that the unblocked light illuminates said  
6 target area with said desired illumination pattern,

7 wherein emitting light is from both a first light source and a second light source on said  
8 cartridge-engaging assembly, and only a portion of said emitted light from said first light source  
9 is attenuated; and

10 attenuating said portion of said emitted light so that there is substantially no overlap  
11 between the light emitted by said first light source and the light emitted by said second light  
12 source.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein attenuating said portion of said emitted light  
2 reduces the formation of a light tail on said data cartridge.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising aligning said light-attenuating  
2 means with said at least one light source.

1    23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing registration means for  
2    aligning said light-attenuating means with said at least one light source.

1    24. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising attenuating about one-half of said  
2    emitted light.

1    25. (New) The system of claim 9, further comprising:  
2              a lens to focus light from the light emitters onto the target area; and  
3              a detector to detect light reflected from the target area.

1    26. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein the light source comprises a first light source to  
2    illuminate a first portion of the target area, the system further comprising a second light source to  
3    illuminate a second portion of the target area, wherein substantially no light from the first light  
4    source illuminates the second portion of the target area.

1    27. (New) The system of claim 9, further comprising a cartridge-engaging assembly  
2    movable to plural positions to engage corresponding plural data cartridges, the light source and  
3    light attenuator mounted to the cartridge-engaging assembly.

1    28. (New) The system of claim 9, further comprising a bar code reader, the light source  
2    being part of the bar code reader, and wherein the target area comprises a bar code onto which  
3    the light source emits light.

1    29. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the light source has plural light emitting  
2    elements, and wherein the light attenuator has plural light blocking elements to attenuate emitted  
3    light from respective light emitting elements,  
4              wherein the light attenuator has a support member to which are attached the light  
5    blocking elements.

1    30. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the light source has plural light emitting  
2    elements, and wherein the light attenuator has plural light blocking elements to attenuate emitted  
3    light from respective light emitting elements,

4                wherein the light source comprises a substrate on which the light emitting elements are  
5    formed, the light attenuator being attached to the substrate.

1    31. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the cartridge-engaging assembly is adapted to  
2    withdraw the data cartridge from a cartridge-receiving device.

1    32. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the data cartridge comprises a first data  
2    cartridge, and wherein positioning the cartridge-engaging assembly comprises moving the  
3    cartridge-engaging assembly from a first position adjacent a second data cartridge to a second  
4    position adjacent the first data cartridge.

1    33. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising reading indicia in the target area  
2    based on illuminating the target area with the light source, the indicia to identify the data  
3    cartridge.

1    34. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising reading, by a bar code reader, a bar  
2    code in the target area based on illuminating the target area with the light source.